

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXY *****CAR-RT SDRT**C-03
#00002915# 005 DTM 51062 P1
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

SINCE 1877

JANUARY 18, 2001

VOL. 124

No. 48

Researcher Barna headed to Mississippi

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

George Barna of Ventura, Calif., one of the country's leading researchers of religious trends, will host a one-day seminar Feb. 22 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, to help churches identify and prepare for the challenges of ministry in the 21st century.

The four-session seminar, co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), will highlight the topics:

- Re-churching the Unchurched.
- Developing Lay Leadership Teams.
- Growing True Disciples of Jesus.
- Effectively Evaluating Your Ministry.

"Those four topics are among the most important our churches face today and in the future, and we wanted to partner with Barna to offer the best resources available to our Mississippi Baptist churches," said Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church ministries, and lead planner for the seminar.

"Barna's research is the most current available on these subjects; the people who attend this seminar

are going to get a lot of cutting-edge information they will need for the future," he pointed out.

Barna, who has written 29 books dealing with cultural trends, religious activity, and church-based ministry, surveyed more than 6,000 church leaders in a \$250,000 study over a two-year period for the seminar, which will be conducted only 52 times in various parts of the country.

Barna and his research company studied several dozen churches that exhibit unusually effective techniques for attracting and retaining unchurched people, and came away with definable characteristics that made those churches so successful.

In developing lay leadership teams, Barna said a contrast must be drawn between the teams and mere work groups.

"Work groups are self-contained production units operating within prescribed parameters. Lay leadership teams are small units of individuals with complementary leadership attitudes who motivate others to get involved, mobilize their efforts around a compelling vision, and direct the flow of effort and resources to accomplish a series of tasks..." he stressed.

For developing disciples of Christ, Barna pointed out that "true discipleship is about a lifestyle, not simply stored-up Bible knowledge.

"Often, churches assume that if people are reading the Bible and attending a small group, then real discipleship is happening. Unfortunately, we found that's often not the case."

Barna's research found that many churches evaluate themselves on the crite-

ria of attendance, membership, revenue, ratio of pastoral staff to congregants, and square footage.

"Those measures are interesting but ultimately insignificant. If a church wants to determine its spiritual health, it must measure indicators of true health. Filling seats and hiring staff are not significantly related to congregation vitality.

"A variety of other measures can be employed to gauge spiritual well-being and growth," he said.

Barna said he is excited about the content of his latest seminar.

"It's wonderful to be able to share a broad spectrum of perspectives with church leaders, from describing the problems to describing how churches have overcome those problems through innovative, strategic, and proven ministry efforts," he observed.

Cost of the seminar is \$60 per person for those who register by January 25 and mention Mississippi Baptist Convention Board when registering. The cost is \$99 for those who register between January 26 and February 8.

Lunch will be available for \$7 per person (reservations required at time of registration), and a Seminar Resource Package featuring Barna's three latest books — Growing True Disciples; Re-churching the Unchurched; and Effective Lay Leadership Teams — is available if ordered at time of registration for the special price of \$38.

Registration must be made through Barna Research Group, Ltd., at (800) 55-BARNA, or by visiting the Barna web site at www.barna.org. MBCB cannot accept registrations.

The seminar will open at 8 a.m. on February 22, with sessions starting at 9 a.m. and concluding at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Steve Stone at (601) 292-3312 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 312. E-mail: ssstone@mbcb.org.

BARNA

2000-2001

Co-Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison
February 22, 2001
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

One day/four sessions

- Re-Churching the Unchurched
- Developing Lay Leadership Teams
- Growing True Disciples of Jesus
- Effectively Evaluating Your Ministry

You will receive a discounted rate of \$60 (Regular Rate \$99) when you register by January 25 and mention you are registering with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

To register or for more information
visit WWW.BARNA.ORG
or call 1-800-55-BARNA.



WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

TLW goes high-tech

"Souper Bowl" planned

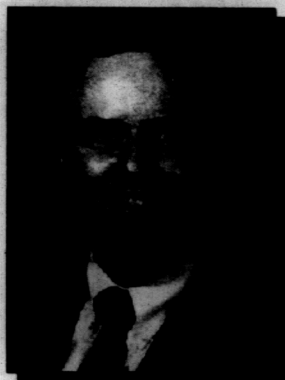
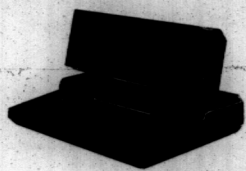
Letter to the editor

Sunday School lessons

2001 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference

Full coverage in the January 25 issue of the Record

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Florence Larrimore

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER
Heather Cumberland

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

EDITORS EMERITI
Don McGregor
Guy Henderson

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Grant Arinder, Ridgeland
Charles Dunagin, McComb
Ken Hester, Pontotoc
Allan Nix, Laurel
David Petty, Hattiesburg
Michael Weeks, Olive Branch
Heather Cumberland, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address
to **The BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send
news, communication, and address
changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST
RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 124 NUMBER 48
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi
churches. Periodicals postage paid at
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —
one calendar week prior to requested pub-
lication date, Advertising — two calendar
weeks prior to requested publication date.

On your first witness

Dear Brynne — When you were born, I knew my prayers had been answered. Prayers that I prayed before you were ever conceived. Prayers that I prayed even before I met your mother. Prayers that you would be whole and healthy. Prayers that I would meet the challenge of being the Christian husband, father, and man that you needed to me to be.

More than all those prayers, however, I prayed that you would one day come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I pledged to God that I would do everything in my power to point you toward Jesus, including living my own life in a way that you would see Jesus in me.

I have done so imperfectly, but you have not disappointed. I am proud of your awards for Scripture memorization. I appreciate your reminders when nightly family prayers slip my busy mind.

I am pleased by your intense fascination with the work of missionaries. I am gratified that you want to be in church at every opportunity, hungry to know more about Jesus.

It took my breath away when you told me a few weeks ago that, at the tender age of eight, you planned to talk with your unchurched friend at school about coming to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

It took my breath away because I was stunned by your courage and spiritual maturity — much greater than your Dad's when he was your age.

It also took my breath away because I knew, even though Jesus himself instructed us to share our faith, how difficult following that command can be in our culture.

I prayed for you. I prayed for your friend.

I prayed that the Holy Spirit would fill you with the right words, for I understood you could reach her in a way that I nor any other adult could ever do. I had great hope for your friend's salvation, and for the success of your first attempt to share your faith.

I'm sorry it didn't turn out as you had hoped. Like you, I was crushed that you were belittled as "stupid" for believing in Jesus and ridiculed for inviting your friend to attend church with you.

That response was most likely something your friend has heard many times from parents in the home. If your friend didn't hear it at home, our culture certainly sends the same signals in countless ways.

That makes me sad and even angry, but I know what must be done.

You must continue to pray without ceasing for your special friend. You must enlist the prayers of your many Christian friends both in and out of your close-knit church circle.

You must continue to fashion yourself as a living, breathing model of Jesus — not only for your special friend but also for other friends and classmates who are watching closely.

Most importantly, you must never give up.



During his time on earth, Jesus was ridiculed and tagged with just about every deprecatory name known to mankind. Even today, the pejoratives used to describe him are often as awful as when he was here among us in human form.

Yet he never gave up on us. You can do no less. It's your Christian responsibility. It's my Christian responsibility. It's the responsibility of all Christians.

I know how much you love Jesus (and your friend, too), so I know you will persevere. I don't know if you will be successful in winning over your friend, but I know you will never give up.

For that special quality, I am eternally grateful to God for answering my prayers.
— Love, Daddy

For in the image of God made the man, comprises the crown and conclusion of creation. Much is written about the meaning and usage of the expressions "in his image" and "after his likeness," but it is clear that God created human beings distinct from the rest of his creation. "In his image" places an imprint on mankind that says that all human life is sacred.

This is an astonishing truth. God has stamped a high and sacred value on human life and that value is to be defended and upheld (Ex. 20:13). The Psalmist declared the marvel of a human life being formed in the womb (Ps. 139:13-15). Jeremiah understood that he was known by God before his birth and was set apart for ministry (Jer. 1:5).

Modern technology helps us understand the marvel and majesty of life in the womb. Pat Center's article entitled *Happy Birthday, Samuel!* refers to a USA Today photograph of Samuel Armas' tiny hand reaching out of his mother's womb and grasping the finger of Surgeon Joseph Bruner. Bruner and a team at Vanderbilt University Hospital had operated on Samuel while he was still in his mother's womb to repair a spina bifida lesion on his spine. The risky surgery was a resounding success and Samuel was born weighing five pounds and eleven ounces. He was the youngest ever to undergo such a surgery (AFA Journal, January 2001).

GUEST OPINION:



In his image

By Ken Anderson, pastor
First Church, Saltillo

We stand amazed and full of wonder at the gift of life. Pastors have the privilege of seeing children grow and come to faith in Christ, and baptize them. They continue to grow through the various stages of adulthood and the sanctity of their lives remains a fantastic reality.

Behind the sacredness of this truth is a moral junkyard that has become a part of the landscape of our culture. In that scenery is the date of January 22, 1973. On that date the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that a

Texas law prohibiting abortion except to save the life of the mother was unconstitutional. Overnight, anti-abortion laws

in all 50 states were overturned (Moody, May 1982).

Since the Supreme Court decision there is an awareness of other issues that gives no intrinsic value to the sanctity of human life.

Syndicated columnist Mona Charen reported the story of a newborn son being placed in a plastic bag and then

heaved into a dumpster. Her article entitled, *When Abortion is OK, Infanticide Becomes Logical*, captures the spiritual meltdown that is evident in America. How can anyone comprehend how a baby, seconds after birth, is so unwanted and disposable? Now there is infanticide and also euthanasia, assisted suicide, road rage, air rage, partial birth abortions, school and work place shootings, etc. The devastation grows and continues.

There is hope that human life will have its proper place of honor as God ordained. "Before Samuel Armas was operated on at twenty-one weeks many considered a fetus at his age little more than a 'not yet human blob.' But the photograph of Samuel proved them wrong" (AFA Journal, January 2001). He proved them wrong indeed.

Our hope is in the truth. The truth is that we are created in the image of God. It is true that life is so precious that Jesus Christ died a horrible death on a cross to give us real life here and hereafter.

January 21 will be observed across the Southern Baptist Convention as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. It is a time for churches to reaffirm the truth of Scripture: "For in the image of God made he him, male and female created he them (Gen. 1:27). It is a time to strengthen our commitment to defend the sanctity of human life.



Trophies not a priority in growing league

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The National Basketball Association has dunking sensation Vince Carter. College basketball boasts coaching legend Mike Krzyzewski.

The Upward Basketball League lays claim to a far greater presence on the basketball court — 120,000 girls and boys learning about Jesus and jump shots.

Through this unique ministry, more than 600 churches this year will have the opportunity to teach children fundamental basketball skills while also sharing with them about salvation.

"Upward Basketball is not a traditional basketball league," said Shane McKenzie, Upward

Unlimited vice president of operations. "Its primary focus is outreach. It's not about championships. It's not about trophies. What we're about is changed lives and creating opportunities to share the Lord."

The season consists of eight games and 10 practices. Boys and girls in grades one through six are encouraged to participate. There is a fee for a child to join the league, but kids receive a bag full of basketball goodies. Scholarships are available for children who need financial assistance.

Caz McCaslin, president of Upward Unlimited, created Upward Basketball in 1986 at his church in Spartanburg, S.C. In 1994, it consisted of just one participating church but enrollment had boomed to more than 700 children.



MAY THE BEST TEAM WIN — Young competitors are taught sportsmanship as they prepare to begin their game in the Upward Basketball League, which will reach 120,000 boys and girls with the message of Christ. (BP photo)

"A friend told me, 'You don't need another gym. You need a 1,000 more gyms,'" McCaslin recalled.

Thus, by 1996, the ministry had grown to 64 churches and more than 13,000 children. Each year since, the number of churches and children participating has doubled. Today 610 churches nationwide are involved in Upward Basketball.

Based on decision cards and questionnaires returned to Upward Unlimited, the average number of people saved per church is 22.

Head coaches give their teams a devotional midway through each practice. At each Saturday game, a member of the sponsoring church walks to

half-court and gives a five-minute testimony to parents.

"People are encouraged, motivated, and excited about telling their story," McCaslin said. "Upward basketball is structured so that a lot of people can contribute bits and pieces. There are so many different areas to get involved."

Churches encourage their members to serve as coaches, assistant coaches, halftime speakers, referees, commissioners, directors, and prayer partners. The season culminates with a special awards night at which every child receives an award. Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to the ceremony, which is held in the church. At every awards night in every church across the country, the message of salvation is shared.

McCaslin relates one testimony in which a minister shared with him the amazement of looking out over his church and "realizing there were more lost people than had ever been in their sanctuary before."

One hundred days prior to awards night, every church seeks to recruit 100 people to pray for their fellowship's Upward Basketball ministry.

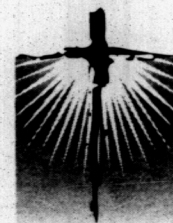
"So you can be in Hong Kong and still be praying for your Upward Basketball in South Carolina," McCaslin said. "It begins to involve people in the church who have never been involved before."

Upward Basketball also reaches out to people who would otherwise never be reached. The program is successful in part because the United States is such a sports-oriented society.

"To reach the lost, you have to think 'lost,'" said former pastor Greg Sandivol who now is devoting his ministry to Upward Basketball. "You have to think, 'What would they be attracted to?' The uniforms are great. The posters are great. It's marketed very well."

Sandivol, who served at Bethel Church in San Jose, Calif., is moving with his family to Las Vegas this month to start Upward Basketball leagues. Nevada currently has no programs.

"My goal is to plant as many leagues in Las Vegas as possible," Sandivol said. "That's where I'm going to start."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

The Baptist
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JANUARY 18, 2001

VOL. 124

No. 48

Myanmar Christians attacked

LONDON (BP) — A sizeable Christian community is among the Karen people group in Myanmar (formerly Burma) facing abuse at the hands of the country's military regime, according to Newsroom-Online, an Internet news service based in London. Newsroom-Online reported that the British human rights group Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) sent a team to Myanmar in November to document abuse claims. CSW cited "widespread use of forced labor, involuntary relocation, military offensives against civilians, threats and intimidation, and destruction of crops and livestock," based on firsthand testimonies of refugees in Thailand, trips into the Burmese jungle, and evidence from recent military defectors. Among the Karen are an estimated 10,000 baptized believers who are Baptists and an overall Baptist community of 50,000, according to 1999 figures reported by the Baptist World Alliance. About 30% of the Karen people and most of their leadership are Christian, partly as a result of British and American missionary activity in the 19th century, according to the London-based human rights group Jubilee Campaign. A directive of the previous parent of the current military regime, the Burmese Socialist Peoples Party, called for eradication of Christianity, Karen refugee Stephen Dun reported. One of the points of a directive said, according to a translation, "Christianity must be destroyed by peaceful means as well as violent means." Dun said the Burmese military has destroyed many churches, Newsroom-Online continued. "It is common practice for the military, when it enters a Karen village, to dismantle the church and use the materials to rebuild [Buddhist] monasteries," Dun said in his testimony. Pastors have been "forced at gunpoint to help destroy their own churches and build pagodas, then forced to bow down and worship them," Dun said.

Looking back

10 years ago

Ingram Church (Prentiss Association) minister of music Lee Crawford retires after serving the church for 35 years. He has taught singing schools, written songs, composed music, and organized and led the Crawford Quartet, which has sung in revivals and singings and hundreds of funeral services.

20 years ago

The Jackson campus of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) is named the India Nunnery Campus, as a permanent tribute to the memory of the daughter of BCV executive director Paul N. Nunnery and his wife Dorothy.

50 years ago

First Church, Canton, completes its new elementary building. The two-story Georgia-Colonial structure will adequately house more than 300 children in Sunday School and other programs. Included in the building are two electric drinking fountains which will quench many a thirst.

TLW going high-tech on February 14

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — On Feb. 14, students around the world are being asked to sign and e-mail True Love Waits (TLW) commitment cards over the Internet by logging into www.truelovewaits.com. When they log onto the True Love Waits home page, teens will find a pledge card, which can be filled out and e-mailed to TLW headquarters. A live counter will show the totals as they are tallied. The 2001 Internet campaign, which gives students outside the United States equal opportunity to participate, is called "Seize the Net."



Those who want to participate in Seize the Net activities can use the following guidelines, according to True Love Waits officials in the Nashville office.

In January and early February, youth leaders and students are being asked to schedule Bible studies, discipling experiences, worship services, ring ceremonies, retreats, DiscipleNow weekends, campus club Bible studies, and other experiences to prepare students for a commitment to purity.

On Feb. 14, students who want to make a True Love Waits commitment should log on to www.truelovewaits.com and sign the online commitment card. On Feb. 15, churches or civic groups are asked to schedule city or community-wide Seize the Net celebrations.

Resources that can be used throughout the campaign include TLW Takes a Look at Courting, Dating, and Hanging Out, True Love Waits Seize the Net manual, and True Love Waits Seize the Net wallet commitment cards (20 per pack).

To order the resources, go online at www.lifeway.com, call (800) 458-2772, email customerservice@lifeway.com or visit the nearest LifeWay Christian Store.

Questions about the campaign can be addressed by phone to 1-800-LUV-WAIT or by e-mail to truelovewaits@lifeway.com.

MC art prof completes memorial project

By Alice Smith
Mississippi College

The fireman stands strong with a soot-stained face full of emotion. In his arms is a small child from whose hand dangles a beloved, tattered stuffed animal. As one gazes at the life-size sculpture, one realizes afresh the sacrifice made by firemen as they confront life-threatening situations for someone they do not know.

It's the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial, sculpted by Stephen Glaze of Clinton, professor of art at Mississippi College (MC).

The monument was created and dedicated to Jackson fire fighters who have died in the line of duty.

It is a legacy and a permanent memorial to all fire fighters in the state of Mississippi, commissioned by The Fallen Fire Fighters' Memorial Fund of Jackson.

The dedication was held Oct. 29 at the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce Building (Old Central Fire Station) in Jackson.

Glaze and his wife Ruth are both artists and professors of art at MC and parents of three children, Michelle, Kristin, and Jason. Glaze is the son of missionary parents, A. J. and Jean Glaze, retired and living in



Stephen Glaze and a model of The Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial

Clinton, who dedicated their lives to missions in Argentina.

Steve and Ruth Glaze, members of First Church, Clinton, are outstanding and nationally recognized artists in their field.

Both the Glazes are quiet and unassuming, living out a life of faith and testimony to their Christianity as they go about teaching and shaping the lives of their students at MC.

Their work reflects their compassion and love.

Their philosophy of art is, "Creativity is God's gift to man when he created man in

his own image. We are responsible for developing that gift which applies to all arenas of life including the arts."

As Christian artists they believe that art is a visual form of communication that lends itself to opportunities to share one's values and belief system.

The process took four years to complete. Glaze says, "I used my son Jason to serve as the rescued child."

"Jason symbolizes the idea of hope, in that the fire fighter is thinking about the potential the boy has in the future and therefore risks his life to save him."

"As mentioned, the child is actually my son — someone dear to me, but he also represents your

son or daughter—someone dear to each of us but unknown to the fire fighter... who is risking his life to save people of value to others but unknown to themselves."

"It is this unselfish love and compassion for people that I have tried to convey in my work."

Glaze continues, "Hopefully this sculpture will inspire others to compassion and unselfish giving of oneself to help others."

Carved into the granite base of the sculpture are the words of Jesus: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another.*

Study: Pledging teens less likely to engage in sex

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Teenagers who pledge to remain sexually abstinent until marriage are 34% less likely to have sex than those who do not take virginity vows, according to a study to be published in the American Journal of Sociology.

"Pledging decreases the risk of intercourse substantially and independently," the study's authors, Peter S. Bearman and Hannah Bruckner, wrote. Bearman is professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Social and Economic Theory and Research at Columbia University, and Bruckner is assistant professor of sociology at Yale University.

"This is great news," said Paul Turner, co-coordinator for True Love Waits, an international campaign that challenges teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. The campaign is sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Since the beginning of True Love Waits in 1993, we have believed pledges do make a difference," Turner said. "We have witnessed the leveling off and decline of teen pregnancy since then because the latest CDC [Centers for Disease Control] report told us so. This study provides us with strong data that prove pledges do actually make a difference."

The study, "Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges as

they Affect the Transition to First Intercourse," is expected to appear in the January 2001 issue of the American Journal of Sociology, and was reported Jan. 4 in The New York Times and USA Today.

In his 1999 study, Bearman reports that 2.5 million teens in the United States have taken public virginity pledges; however, he believes that figure is closer to 3 million by now. His data was taken from a mid-1990 National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (popularly referred to as Add Health). By "weighting up" the

number of teens who reported they had taken virginity pledges in the Add Health study, Bearman said, "it's got to be over three million now. I think that's a good number."

Bearman pulled his research question from the earlier Add Health study that found teenagers who take pledges of virginity, have loving parents and regard religion and prayer as important are the least likely of all adolescents to report engaging in early sexual behavior.

The earlier research was conducted to identify risks to adolescent health and to pinpoint

specific factors that might guard against those risks.

Bearman said he wanted to study how taking a virginity pledge alone would affect a teen's sexual behavior.

"The biggest predictor to [having] sex is being in a romantic relationship," he said — but teens who are in relationships and take abstinence pledges are less likely to have sexual relations than teens who don't take the pledge, Bearman's study found.

"A 'pledger' with four romantic partners has the same relative risk of sex as a 'non-pledger' with no romantic partners. That's a huge effect," he said.

The delayed effect of sexual intercourse is substantial and almost impossible to erase, he reported. "Taking a pledge delays intercourse for a long time."

In fact, Bearman said by age 15, half the teens in the study had already had sex. Those who took virginity vows, however, usually held off for 18 more months.

While this particular finding may not elicit a sigh of relief from many Christian parents, Turner reminds them that, in addition to taking a public stance on abstinence, a teen who takes a True Love Waits pledge is making a vow to God.

"True Love Waits is more than just a pledge to remain abstinent," Turner said.



TRUE PLEDGE — Youth from Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky., were among a group of teens who posted 450 True Love Waits yard signs June 13 on the front lawn of Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, site of the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Hunger fund to benefit from 'Souper Bowl'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — On Super Bowl Sunday, churches across the nation will raise money for the poor by participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Meanwhile, Southern Baptists will be given an additional opportunity to raise money for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Southern Baptists are being urged to donate \$1 in large soup pots as they leave church on Super Bowl Sunday, said Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and a staff member of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

One hundred percent of the money raised will go directly to the World Hunger Fund, which supports ministry evangelism initiatives across the nation and world led by Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers.

"We want to specifically challenge youth groups and churches to take part in this Souper Bowl of Caring emphasis," Nelson said.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a non-denominational grassroots effort to raise awareness and funding for hunger ministries across the nation. The ministry was founded in 1990 by Presbyterian minister Brad Smith. Since then, more than 8,600 congregations have participated in the annual event, including 600 Baptist churches in 1998.

The gifts do not go to the Souper Bowl organization, Nelson noted. Instead, indi-



SOUP LINE— People at the Samora Michel camp usually receive two meals a day of soup mixture. Refugees continue to arrive by boat at the camp, which already has 3,000 people living in tents. Baptist volunteers purify drinking water that is distributed to the refugee camp and nearby villages. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

vidual congregations determine where to use the money for ministry." Nelson said the Souper Bowl ministry's lone request is to call their office with the results of their efforts.

The ERLC staffer said Souper Bowl is a perfect opportunity to promote the SBC's World Hunger Fund.



Those go to the local church. But in keeping with Leviticus 19:9-10, we can make a portion of our abundance available for those in need through an effort just like this. If every Southern Baptist gave just \$1 per month to the World Hunger Fund, hunger gifts would multiply by 18-fold."

This past year, the domestic portion of hunger funds was totally depleted, Nelson pointed out.

"It is time for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to occupy a place of prominence in Southern Baptist life," Nelson added. "We cannot hope to see the world reached if we fail to demonstrate Christ's love while we speak of his love."

To participate in the Souper Bowl Sunday event, call (800) 358-SOUP or Nelson at (615) 244-2495.

"I want to encourage each church to embrace this opportunity to support the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund in addition to local hunger ministries," Nelson said. "Hunger exists everywhere though we are often unaware of it in our own communities. A few canned goods that we will never miss can mean the difference for a child between a good meal and going hungry."

"The cash gifts go directly to the mission field to be used 100% for hunger ministry, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion," he emphasized. "I can think of no greater stewardship than that. It is not my desire that anyone give their tithes or offerings to the hunger fund."

Co. native to lead state's Baptists

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (ABP) — Colorado native Mark Edlund will be recommended as the next executive director-treasurer of the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

Born in Denver, Edlund currently works as an administrative associate in the Western Pacific Region of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention. His home is Seoul, Korea.

He's worked as a teacher, school director, assistant principal and other education-related administrative roles in Colorado, Belgium, and Japan. In 1984, he was assigned as a missionary to Japan. In 1991, he became pastor of a church in Tokyo, Japan, and moved to his present role in 1997.

Currently, he helps oversee and direct the work of 300 IMB personnel in the Western Pacific Region, Japan, and the Philippines. He administers a \$1.5 million fund for relief and humanitarian funds. He provides support in local churches and trains personnel in areas including missiology, evangelism, learning and administrative matters.

SCRAPS

It was along about the Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday period that I got to thinking about scraps — you know, table scraps. Actually, it was probably after eating four or five days of turkey and dressing scraps that I got to thinking about them.

Being raised in a family of five growing boys, we did not have many scraps around our house. The scraps that existed were not particularly good for human consumption, so our dog, or cat, or both, got to eat them.

The animals always seemed to be fat and happy and I never heard them grumble about eating scraps. In fact, the animals in our household never knew there was "store bought" food. While they only ate scraps, the scraps were from my mama's cooking and that was not bad at all!

Well, the more I thought about scraps it occurred to me that Jesus was certainly familiar with scraps and their importance. You remember when he fed the five thousand? Everyone was filled and satisfied, and Jesus sent the disciples out to gather up the scraps that remained.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

I often wondered what happened to those scraps. Did they use them? Did they dispose of them? Did they give them to some other hungry people? I would tend to believe that if our Lord said to gather them up, he had a purpose in doing so.

He could put scraps to use and like the scraps the animals at my house ate, when the Lord touches them they become something special!

My thinking about scraps was not just initiated by leftovers at holiday time, but as I heard about some automobile scraps that God had put to use.

The Macedonian Call is a group of people who are on mission to help our missionaries when they are home on furlough. Often, when our missionaries come to the States, they are here for two weeks or a month, maybe three months

to six months, and it is almost impossible to arrange for transportation.

The people of The Macedonian Call help provide vehicles for our missionaries while they are at home.

Part of this ministry is funded through gifts of old cars. Approximately 25 cars have been donated by people across the state, either to be used in this ministry or to be sold and the proceeds used in this great work.

The first car that was ever donated was what seemed to be a real scrap — an '82 model car with in excess of 135,000 miles, three flats, and covered with pine straw. Who in the world would want such a vehicle? The answer to that question just may be — the Lord!

This old car that had not run in ages and had been sitting

outside gathering pine straw, was given to this ministry and was sold for \$275. God has ways of taking scraps and sanctifying them.

It may be that you have a scrap and you have wondered what you could do with it. Well, with effort that takes little more than a phone call, your scraps can be turned into a "Missionary Helping — God Honoring" gift.

That gift, and others like it, enabled The Macedonian Call Foundation to acquire 14 good vehicles, providing transportation for furloughing missionary families. Amazing, isn't it, how the Lord can use anything we are willing to give him?

As I thought about our Lord's ministry of scraps, I thought about how many times he took and used what appeared to be wasted lives and hopeless situations.

Just think about it: a thief dying on a cross; a woman at a well; a fisherman who had failed; and a man possessed by demons. Each and every one of them was picked up off of the scrap heap of life and given a glorious, exciting, purpose-filled future.

Thank you Jesus for continuing to do that among us.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of Morgan Chapel, Golden Triangle Association, held its recognition service Aug. 27. The theme was "The Last Frontier." Each girl dressed in the fashion of the country they represented and carried a flower of that country. They were presented charms according to the steps they had completed. Pictured (from left, front row) Stormey Myers, Emily Gregory, Larkin Vickers, and Keally Fulgham; (second row) Kyla Morgan, Neshay Vickers, Bailey McMinn, and Tia Vickers; (third row) Katie Lewis, Sommer Reeves, Casey Risher, and Whitney Morgan. Leaders (from left) are Tracy Risher, Amy Morgan, Jamie Lewis, Misty Lewis, Penney McMinn, Sheila Morgan, and Mae Morgan.

Northcrest Church, Meridian, will host Dallas Holm in concert on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 482-3498.



King, McGee, Reid, and Pell

Strong Hope Church, Wesson, was presented a check on Dec. 10 in the amount of \$269,746.04 from the H. B. McNeill Estate. Included in this amount was a check for \$10,000 presented to the Strong Hope Church cemetery. The McNeills also left Pleasant Hill Church, Annie Bell Pierce McNeill's home church, \$20,000, and West Church, H. B. Hubert McNeill's home church, \$5,000. H. B. Hubert McNeill, a deacon for 72 years and Sunday School teacher for 73 years, joined Strong Hope Church in 1917. His wife moved her membership from Pleasant Hill Church in 1932. Hubert drove a school bus for 44 years. He also made ax, hammer, and shovel handles for a living. Annie Bell McNeill taught school. Pictured (from left) are Hugh King, Wayne McGee, executors of the estate; Cleanae Reid, secretary-treasurer; and Otis Pell, executor of the estate.

Winter Bible Study, Book of James, will be held at Oak Grove Church, Meridian, Jan. 28-31. The times are 7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Randall Creel, evangelist, and Brenda Creel will bring special music each service. Roy Dabbs is pastor.

GAs of First Church, Brandon, participated in a fund raising project for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions. The girls recently packaged and sold cookie mix and hot chocolate mix. Over \$800 was raised for the LMCO. Yvonne Wilson is director of GAs. Beth Allen is children's minister. Gene Henderson is pastor.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627



1st and 2nd grade GAs of First Church, Brandon



3rd and 4th grade GAs of First Church, Brandon



5th and 6th grade GAs of First Church, Brandon

Correction

The dates for the Youth Ministry Forum at Mississippi College are January 16-17, not January 15-16 as reported on page five of the January 11 issue. Incorrect information was provided to the newspaper. For more information or to register, call (601) 321-1111.

LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.

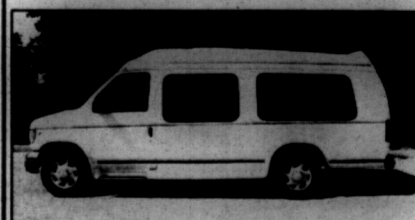
BAPTIST
WATER HEATERS
STEEPLES
CHURCHES

TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.

(800) 370-6180



"RAISED ROOF" VANS IN STOCK

- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- 2/1 Seating with Bucket Seats
- More headroom
- 15 Passengers (no CDL)

2001 Model: \$36,900 (new)

2000 Model: \$35,000 (new)

www.carpenterbus.com

"Nation's Church bus dealer"

NAMES IN THE NEWS

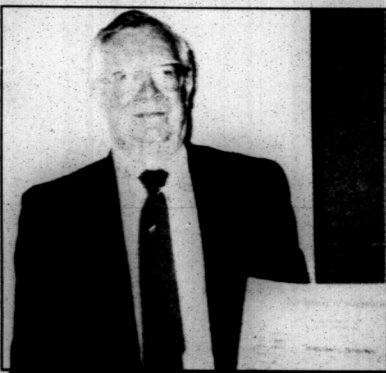


Members of New Hope Church, Foxworth

Members of New Hope Church, Foxworth, with perfect attendance in Sunday School (pictured) are B. B. Stringer, 45 years; Jimmy Thomas, 31 years; Donald Lowery, eight years; Sherrell Magee, 19 years; Bonnie Pittman, 10 years; Gail Campbell, three years; Chase Clark, four years; Mitch Ratliff, nine years; Donna Ratliff, 19 years; and Karla Ratliff, nine years. Not pictured are Dianna Pounds, one year;

and Cade Campbell, three years.

William L. Jenkins was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sept. 17 by First Church, Oxford, where he is minister of counseling and senior adults.



Jenkins

Philadelphia Church, Lincoln Association, ordained Landon Larone Smith to the ministry on Aug. 20. Smith is pictured with his wife Jessica; Bill Wright, pastor; and Bruce Brady.

Lloyd McClellan was ordained to the deacon ministry at Crenshaw



Wright, The Smiths, and Brady

Church, on Oct. 22. J. Courtney Selvey preached the ordination sermon. Pictured with McClellan (left) is Terry L. Upchurch, pastor of Crenshaw Church.



McClellan and Upchurch

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a series of reviews, beginning on Jan. 20, to assist students who are preparing to take the Feb. 10 American College Testing Assessment (ACT). They are as follows: Math Review, Jan. 27 9-11:30 a.m., (deadline for registration Jan. 22); Science Review, Feb. 3-9, 11:30 a.m. (deadline for registration Jan. 29). All reviews will be held on the Mississippi College campus. For more information regarding these test reviews or for registration forms, call Carole Moore at (601) 925.3265 or e-mail continuing-ed@mc.edu.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will be offering International Business Etiquette, a one-day noncredit class, on Jan. 27, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This course will include a reference workbook as well as a 7-course tutorial dinner. The morning session will teach the non-technical strategies and tactics to compete in an economy that demands mental flexibility and alertness. The afternoon session will teach dining skills vital to every social occasion where business may be promoted or conducted. The seminar will be conducted by Etiquette & Protocol Associates. Pre-registration is required by

Jan. 22. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3264 or e-mail at continuing-ed@mc.edu.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the April 21 offering of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The course, which offers 22 sessions, each with three instructional hours of review, is scheduled to begin Jan. 20 and conclude on April 14. Pre-registration is required and space will be limited. For more information, call Ken Gilliam at (601) 925- 3263.

William Carey College will celebrate Homecoming Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27 on the Hattiesburg campus with the theme, 2001: A Homecoming Odyssey. The countdown begins Friday at 11:30 a.m. with a golf tournament; followed by the Blast Off for Missions Chili Cook-off at 5:30 p.m. Registration for the golf tournament begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Shadow Ridge Golf Course. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (601) 582-6167 or (601) 544-3220. The chili cook-off, sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, will be held in the Wilkes Dining Hall at 5:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to enter the contest can take a two-gallon batch of their homemade chili to the dining hall by 5 p.m. Saturday will launch with a 5K Walk/Run, and 1 Mile Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. in front of Tatum Court. Another event planned on Saturday is the Tiny Feet Camp. This children's camp, ages 5 to 12, is planned for 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. For more information, call the alumni office at (601) 582-6107.

MC celebrates school's 175th anniversary

Mississippi College (MC) will celebrate 175 years of academic excellence on Jan. 24 at 11 a.m. in Swor Auditorium with a Convocation. The Baptist affiliated university in Clinton was founded on Jan. 24, 1826, as Hampstead Academy. William M. Pinson, Jr., executive director emeritus of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and former president of Golden Gate Seminary, will be the keynote speaker for the Convocation. Special music will be presented by the MC Chorale. Other program participants include Kermit McGregor, president, Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Are you paying too much for your Medical Insurance or Medicare Supplement Coverage? If yes, Call Today!

☐ Major Medical & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Maternity, Prescription Drugs.

☐ Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. Low Rates!

☐ Long-term Nursing Care

Also available: Home Health Care

☐ Final Expense Burial Plan

Affordable Senior Life Protection

Agents, GA's and MGA's needed

Not connected with any Government program. For full details on coverage including limitations and exclusions call today!

Call today for free information:

E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

or call toll-free:

1-877-232-0686

☐ Medicare Supplement under age 65 and on disability

The New **Wilson Dodge**



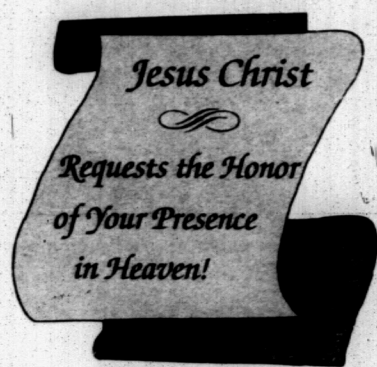
**YOUR
MINIVAN AND
CHURCH VAN
SOURCE**



Mississippi's #1 Dodge Dealer

Call toll free 1-800-737-1331

4200 Lakeland Drive • Jackson • 601-914-4200



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Homecoming

Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal: Jan. 21; 13th annual homecoming; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall followed by an old fashioned singing; Keith Thompson, former member, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Taylorsville, music; Johnny Breazeale, pastor, preaching; for more information, call the church at (601) 545-7635.

Revival date

Trinity, Carthage: Jan. 28 (one-day revival); services, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; David Michel, associate executive director for missions extension, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Tom Larrimore, minister of music, Midway Church, Jackson, music; Jerry Mixon, interim pastor.

Seminarian returning to Indonesian home

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — With the current turmoil in Indonesia, which includes worsening persecution of Christians, it would be hard to blame Victor Rembeth if he never returned home.

Rembeth has not only returned to his native land, but in his current ministry position, intends to work to help heal the situation.

When Rembeth earned his degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1995, the Indonesian national admits that he was tempted to stay in the United States.

"We know we are here to get the training, but it is quite easy to think about staying here," Rembeth said, "but it's the people of Indonesia that we want to go back and reach for Christ."

After graduating, Rembeth took a pastorate at a Baptist church in Indonesia. Soon, other ministry positions awaited him, ones that are allowing him to reach greater numbers of Asians.

Rembeth is now serving as general secretary of the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches. He's the youngest person ever to be elected to the post.

"I direct the day-to-day matters of the union," Rembeth said. "It's a job very similar to the one done by a state director or director of missions."

"We have a target of 20,000 new baptisms, 100 news churches, and we want to adopt 10 unreached people groups."

Rembeth also has to address the needs of training Indonesian nationals to carry the gospel around Indonesia. He said that's important because restrictions on missionary activity have recently tightened in Indonesia.

"We cannot depend on missionaries all the time," Rembeth said. "God has opened my eyes in seeing the great needs of evangelism and discipleship among Indonesians."

Rembeth said the union faces another challenge in dealing with the volatile relations between Indonesia's Muslim and Christian populations. Establishing a better relationship will be one of his top priorities.

"This is the right time for Christians to go to the government and voice their concern about their treatment at the hands of the Muslims," Rembeth stated. "We need the International Peace Corps to come in and monitor relations. Our goal is to work to get them here."

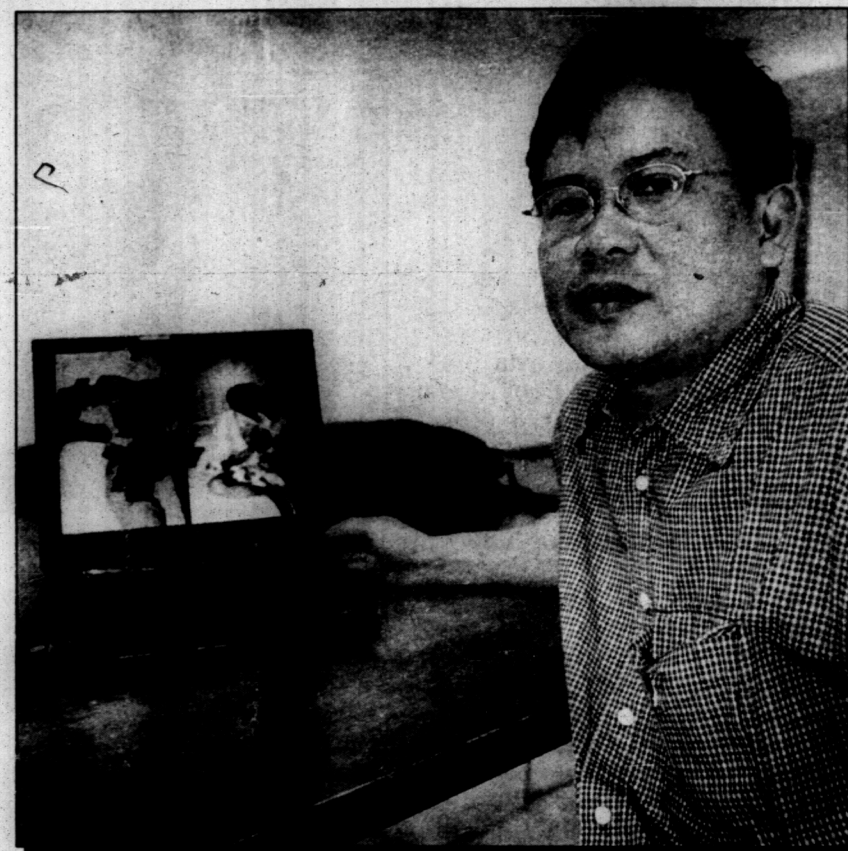
Rembeth has also been leading the union in relief efforts for victims of a June earthquake in Indonesia.

"The government has actually been impressed with our efforts to help the victims," Rembeth said. "We were immediately on the scene providing food and medical care. We plan to continue assisting them by helping them rebuild housing."

Rembeth had to leave his pastoral position after 4 years of service to take the general secretary position. That wasn't an easy choice.

"In fact that was the most difficult decision for both me and my church," Rembeth said.

"It was a heartbreaking time to leave the church. They taught me what a loving New Testament church really is."

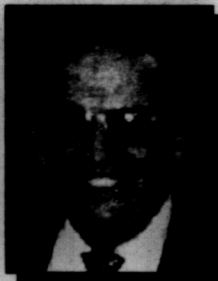


STARK REMINDER — Even in America, Victor Rembeth carries with him digital images evidence of persecution of Christians in his native land. Rembeth is the youngest person ever to serve as general secretary of the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches. (BP photo)

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Fannin, Brandon, has called **Steve Abercrombie** as minister of youth and education, effective Dec. 20. A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., Abercrombie received his education at Mississippi College and William Carey College. He previously served at First Church, Ridgeland.

Trinity Church, Philadelphia, Wayne Hill has called **Wayne Hill** as pastor. A native of Winston County, Hill has served churches in Winston and Kemper counties. He is a retired administrator of the Kosciusko-Attala schools and has taught at East Central



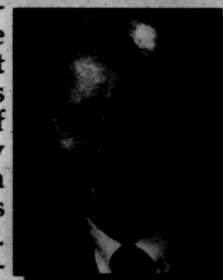
Hill

Community College and Mississippi State University.

Mount Zion Church, Columbus, has called **Jim Cain** as minister of youth and education. A native of Starkville, Cain received his education at Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Cartersville Church, Petal.

Bethany Church, Lauderdale Association, has called **Danny L.**

Balint as pastor effective Nov. 5. Balint received his master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. Former ministry-related experience includes Castlewood Chapel and First Church, Mableton, Ga., and Orchard Church, Mobile, Ala.



Balint

CLASSIFIED ADS

40 characters per word, minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Rates, terms, zip code and phone number in word count. No blind ads. ONLY CASH ACCEPTED.

CFI — PEWS, NEW & used. Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & AL. 1-800-830-0583.

WE SPECIALIZE IN VANS Featuring 6 to 15 passenger vans, customized and panel vans. Daily and weekly rates. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

CUSTOM STAINED GLASS windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

INTERIOR ELEMENTS STAINED GLASS STUDIO: Custom church windows. Columbus - toll free 1-877-477-1899.

ALLEN MDS-40-S DIGITAL ORGAN. 3-manual with drawknobs. Six years old. Four finished speakers. 45 speaking stops, 55 rank equivalent. Expander II and Smart recorder. Perfect condition. \$28,500. Contact Jim or Susan Link @ (601) 264-2116.

FOR SALE: 51 church pews and pulpit furniture. Pews are 13 feet long. Cost \$4,995.00. Call (601) 763-7571.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call 1-800-368-2705.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

CRAWFORD BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING God's man as our education and administration pastor. The church desires an experienced man to grow our 300+ Sunday School. Send resumes to 3000 Sun Valley Dr., Mobile, AL 36618.

THE SEARCH TEAM FOR THE PENSACOLA BAY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is now accepting resumes for the position of director. Please address inquiries and correspondence to Dr. Bob Greene, Pensacola Bay Baptist Association, 1100 W. Michigan Avenue, Pensacola, Florida, 32505. All correspondence should be received by February 28, 2001.

The
**Breath of
Life**

Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 21, 2001

Every life a promise

Bethany
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
www.bethany.org

FORUM SLATED

Editor:

On Feb. 16-17 the Youth Ministry Team of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will sponsor a Youth Ministry Forum designed specifically for part-time youth ministers and volunteer youth ministers. It will be held at Mississippi College in Clinton, upstairs in the Student Center. The forum begins at 6:45 p.m. on Friday and will continue through noon on Saturday. A free breakfast will be provided at Camp Garaywa at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, by reservation only.

There is no charge to attend the forum, but pre-registration by Friday, Feb. 9 is necessary! You can register by calling me at (800) 748-1651, ext. 295, or by e-mailing mlott@mbcb.org. Include your name, church name, home and work phone, and whether or not you will attend the free breakfast. All lodging, travel, and other meals will be your responsibility.

Allen Jackson, youth min-

istry professor at New Orleans Seminary, will be our keynote speaker. He provides not only valuable knowledge, but also years of practical application. In other words, he not only knows youth ministry — he still practices it!

Mark Lott
Jackson

PIONEER LOST

Editor:

On Dec. 31, I lost a great friend. In addition, Mississippi Baptists lost a pioneer in church music. Lester White spent most of his life in Union as a businessman, as an integral part of First Church, and for many, many years, as a volunteer song leader. It was told to me that Lester was the first president of the first organized statewide organization of music leaders here in Mississippi. He was a friend to all, but especially to a number of us young music ministers. He mentored Price Harris, Billy Jack Green, Drew

LeBlanc, myself, and several other music men, befriending us all. As a volunteer music leader, Lester White was a part of the very early stages of church music in Mississippi. His wife Melba, who preceded him in death, was organist at First Church, Union, for close

to 40 years. They loved the Lord and were special encouragers. I will personally miss Lester White, but the memories of his friendship will be a strong influence on me for the rest of my life.

Allen Hill, music minister
First Church, Taylorsville

Senator expresses concern

NEW DELHI (BP) — Visiting U.S. Senator Arlen Specter expressed concern over attacks on Christians in India and said New Delhi is not doing enough to contain the attacks, the Internet news site CNSNews.com reported on the senator's comments after meeting with Indian officials Jan. 4. "I am not satisfied by the steps taken by Indian government to curb such incidents," the Pennsylvania Republican said. Senior Indian officials said the senator had been told that incidents of violence against Christians were isolated and were not part of a general hate campaign against a particular community. The United States is not raising this issue in public as it might needlessly annoy Hindu hardliners and make things more difficult for the Christian community in India. American officials reportedly told the Indians. Christians make up just 2.5% of India's nearly 1 billion, mostly Hindu population. India was shocked in January 1999 when a mob burned to death Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons as they slept in their car in eastern Orissa state. The murders were followed by a spate of anti-Christian violence elsewhere.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.

invites your indication of interest to:
FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS
EARN UP TO: 10%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Quarterly

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.

5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.

All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR WRITE TO:

Christy Overby 1-800-288-4183
341 Dover Lane 856-9158 (local)
Madison, MS 39110

B E E S O N D I V I N I T Y S C H O O L

p r e s e n t s

WILLIAM E. CONGER, JR.
LECTURES ON BIBLICAL PREACHING

Featuring

Richard Bewes
Rector, All Souls Church, London

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2001
11 A.M., DIVINITY CHAPEL

"The Romance of Preaching"

A Discussion Luncheon will follow Wednesday's lecture. The cost of the luncheon is \$5 per person; reservations are required by Friday, February 16th. The worship service and lectures are open to the public at no charge. For more information or to register for the Discussion Luncheon, call 800-888-8266 or (205) 726-2991.

Beeson is affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals and is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin.

Collegian faces charges in fatal wreck

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — A 20-year-old Southwest Baptist University (SBU) student has been charged with three counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count of second-degree assault in a Dec. 3 accident in which three passengers were killed and he had allegedly been driving under the influence of alcohol.

Tyler L. Wasmer, 20, is expected to turn himself in Jan. 11, the Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader reported, and the prosecution is seeking a \$5,000 bond.

Killed in the accident were Southwest Baptist University basketball players Gregory Germany, 22; Mary Miller, 20; and Bryon Phillips, 27, husband of SBU volleyball player Leslie Phillips.

Wasmer, a football player at SBU, and basketball player Jamie Roszell, 19, were seriously injured when the Jeep Cherokee driven by Wasmer ran off a state highway 10 miles north of Springfield, crashed into a tree, and caught fire, according to the Missouri Highway Patrol.

Ministry to grieving part of chaplain's job

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Jack Miller does what most others would rather not do. Miller, who graduated from Southern Seminary in December, delivers death notifications for the Louisville police department's chaplaincy unit.

It's the one part of his position that Miller doesn't like. Since taking the role of chaplain in December 1999, the Ansted, W.Va., native has delivered more than 65 death notifications to family members of those who have been murdered, died in an accident, or committed suicide.

Miller's position gives him the opportunity to counsel the grieving and share the gospel with the lost. He wears a pager throughout the week, knowing that at any time he could be asked to deliver bad news to a family he has never met.

"You're in a race," he said. "You're in a race with the phone lines. You're in a race to tell the family before somebody [else] breaks it to them."

He said that each notification has been tough. "To that one person, that's a life-changing event," he said. "Anytime you don't remember that when you go on one of these calls, you need to quit right there."

A Southern Baptist, Miller works alongside chaplains with Episcopalian, Methodist, and Church of Christ backgrounds.

Miller's route to the Louisville police department began in 1997, when he and his wife moved to the city. Miller felt called to seminary, although he did not know what type of ministry to undertake. He soon began serving as a chaplain at a local hospital.

During one night at the hospital, Miller counseled the family of a drug dealer who had been shot.

Miller said that approximately 30 family members were at the hospital when the man died.

"It was just chaos for about four hours," he said, describing the emotional state of the family.

A Louisville police chaplain at the hospital was impressed with Miller's ministry to the family.

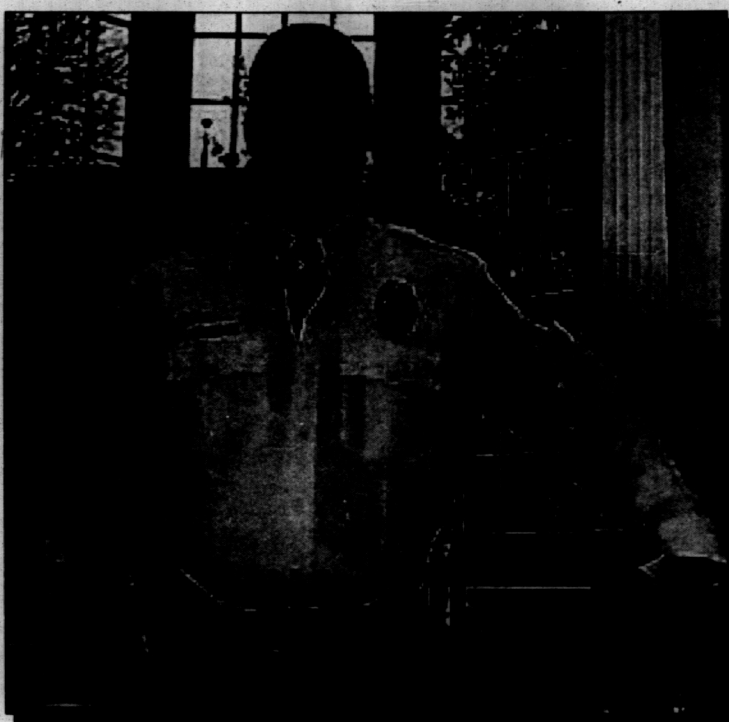
"When it was all done, he said, 'You were pretty good in there. You ought to call the coordinator of chaplains downtown,'" Miller said.

Miller went through a chaplaincy course at the police department in the fall of 1999 and started soon thereafter.

Several months later he also joined the police department at West Buechel — a town a few miles southeast of downtown Louisville — as a chaplain and a police officer.

"I can see why this would not appeal to people," Miller said.

"Every time I get a call [for a death notification], I really do hate it. I hate it because I know somebody's dead, but the other side of this kind of ministry is [that] you get to share a lot of time with the officers, and that's good — and I have a desire [to minister to] police officers," he pointed out.



TOUGH JOB — Jack Miller, who graduated from Southern Seminary in December, delivers death notifications for the Louisville police department's chaplaincy unit. (BP photo)

Cowboy preacher lassos lost in unusual corral

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — While tourists flock to Fort Worth's historic Stockyards every year, most churches have for a long time abandoned the area and its Old West style buildings and wooden sidewalks.

For more than a decade, Carl and Joann Hinton and E. C. Burnett, merchants in the Stockyards, have prayed for a church in the area, which is also well-known for its bars and rabble-rousing.

Those prayers were answered in 2000, when Dan Haby, a graduate of Fort Worth's Southwestern Seminary, came to

the mall along North Main Street where the Hinton's and Burnett's shops are located and announced that he was going to start a church. On Easter Sunday, 65 people met inside the mall for the church's inaugural worship service.

"We've been here for years praying for something like this to come," Burnett said as he stood in front of his gift shop in the mall. "I'd ask, 'Lord, why?' And he'd say, 'Shut up and keep working.' On Easter Sunday, when we sat in there, it was just such a blessing."

The church has faced opposition. On its first Sunday, Pastor Haby hung a large banner outside the mall to promote the church. After services, they found the banner had been cut down and sliced into little pieces. Empty beer bottles littered the ground.

At first glance, the Fort Worth Stockyards seems a terrible place to open a church.

Bars abound, including the world-famous Billy Bob's Texas, literally a stone's throw from the church's meeting space. Down-and-outs are all

over the area, which is among the poorest economically in Fort Worth, with average household incomes below \$15,000 annually. The average age of residents is 28.

For Haby, though, those were all good reasons to start the church.

"We're not a typical church," Haby said, standing in the mall, wearing a white cowboy hat, starched blue shirt, blue jeans, and cowboy boots as he does most Sundays. "We're dealing with people who need to know Jesus."

Sometimes called a cowboy church, the church reaches more than cowboys, Haby stressed. The neighborhood that surrounds the Stockyards is populated mostly by Hispanic people.

The Stockyards is also one of the Dallas-Fort Worth area's largest tourist spots, drawing people from throughout the nation and around the world. To demonstrate that the church was for more than cowboys, the church changed its name in November from Western Worship Center to Stockyards Community Church.

"We are now a multi-ethnic church," Haby said. "We have Hispanics, Blacks, Vietnamese, Chinese, Sudanese, the very poor, homeless, down-and-outs, along with people who own businesses, walking arm and arm to worship God."

Some of the poor and homeless are people who find themselves in the mall Sunday mornings, sobering up from Saturday nights. They come into the mall to use the

restrooms and are greeted by the church's members, who stand inside the mall, offering coffee, breakfast burritos, and doughnuts.

For some of the people, Haby said, it is clear that the food offered by the church might be the only food they have eaten in days.

The 10-member church staff, all either current or former Southwestern students, agreed to go unpaid for the first year.

That includes Haby, who moves furniture when he's not ministering.

As he talks with church members on a weekday morning, he greets many of the merchants and visitors who walk through the mall. Most are friendly.

But, that's not a feeling shared by all. In addition to the banner that was torn to shreds, the church's sign outside the mall has been knocked down, spit on, driven over, and kicked numerous times.

Some merchants have been openly hostile to the church, but that has not discouraged the church's members or its pastor.

"We were rejoicing," Burnett said. "We're getting close to do something good, or else Satan wouldn't be trying so hard to stop us."

Haby said some on the staff did not know exactly how to minister to such a diverse community, with its hostilities and problems.

"Some of the staff had been pretty sheltered," Haby said. He then grins and adds, "Now, they aren't."



FROM SEMINARY TO STOCKYARDS — Dan Haby graduated from Southwestern Seminary and headed north — to the other side of the city and the Fort Worth Stockyards to start a church. (BP photo by Bryan Murley)

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Victorious living

Matthew 3:13; 4:11

By Sharon Neff

All of human life is sacred, whether we're talking about human life when it first begins at conception or human life in the throes of age, infirmity, or illness not long before it ends on this earth. Amazingly, this statement on the sanctity of human life has become a controversial issue.

We hear a lot about "choice." For example, a woman's right to choose what she does with her body; or that "if Grandpa could talk, he would tell us he would choose to die rather than stay bedridden in this nursing home." Or even that "I have a right to choose to end my own life."

The issue of choice is put up against the sacredness of human life and sadly, choice

wins much of the time. In these instances, choice appears to be somewhat selfish, expedient, and often-times misguided.

However, consider the choices that Jesus made as recorded in Matthew for our lesson this week. First, Jesus chose to be baptized; he chose to be identified with those he came to redeem. He had already chosen to leave heaven and become the perfect sacrifice of redemption, and in baptism, he was choosing to publicly demonstrate his obedience to the will of the Father.

When Satan tempted him, he made other significant choices. Satan was trying to get Jesus to circumvent God's will that involved hardship and sacrifice. He wanted Jesus to take



Neff

the easy way, to choose personal convenience and personal power over God's purpose for his life.

In each of the three instances of temptation, Jesus made the choice to follow the Father's will, even though it would involve difficulty. The choices that Jesus made were unselfish, purposely leading to a life that would not be easy but would be necessary if he was to redeem humanity. Yet the choices that Jesus made led ultimately to life, actually the gift of eternal life for those who would accept it.

What about the choices we make, especially with respect to human life? When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we choose to identify with him through baptism and publicly express a commitment to God's way. This way includes a high regard for the sanctity of human life.

We may be tempted by Satan and the world to put our personal convenience and needs

above God's purpose and plan for life.

Abortion is touted as an easy way out of a bad situation and puts the quality of one person's life above the value of another person's life. The horrifying partial birth abortion procedure is legal, and abortion is being made even easier with the introduction of the so-called abortion pill.

When I hear about "a woman's right to choose" I can't help but cringe and think "What about the baby's right to choose to live?" Of course, there's always the consideration that in most situations, the woman does have a right to choose, but it is a choice about preventing conception in the first place.

A crisis pregnancy is just that — a crisis — but we deal with crises time after time in our lives and as Christians we must depend on the Lord to lead us through even the most difficult of situations. We honor him by obeying his plan for human life and must protect

these tiny ones who cannot defend themselves.

Euthanasia is illegal, but the idea is gaining popularity among more and more people. Once again, the lives of those who are the weakest and least able to defend themselves are in danger.

Dealing with the old, the desperately ill, or the profoundly handicapped can be exhausting and entirely inconvenient. It can be another crisis situation where it is tempting to measure the value of one's life against another's and possibly be tempted to be rid of the person with the least perceived value.

This devaluing of human life is not God's plan. Even suicide is a devaluing of a life and usually occurs in a crisis situation as well.

Consider again the choices Jesus made. They were not the easy choices, but he chose to obey God's plan. Let us follow his example and choose God's plan and purpose for human life.

Neff is a member of First Church, Greenville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Valuing human life

Gen. 1:27; Matt. 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

By Lee Yancey

On the third Sunday in January, churches are urged to give attention to the sanctity of human life. Emphasis is given to a broad range of life issues, including abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, health care, child abuse, and elder care.

Source of life (Gen. 1:27). The source of all life is God. In the beginning he created every living thing, including man. We are unique in that we are created "in the image of God."

We were formed with conscience, dignity, and the ability to fellowship with our Maker. Because God so painstakingly created us, we should not take lightly all forms of destructive behavior, including abortion.

Since 1973, 38 million babies have lost their lives due to

abortion. Abortion accounts for 46% of deaths in the United States. Because God gave us life in creating us, and new life by Christ's atoning work, we ought to see life as a precious gift from God.

Unworthy as we are, people are sacred to God. In response, we can show gratitude to God by working to protect those who cannot protect themselves — live babies awaiting birth. We can work harder to promote alternatives to abortion.

Quality of life (Matt. 5:13-16). All people are created for a purpose. Jesus uses the imagery of salt and light to symbolize the type of behavior expected of his followers.

Salt and light are only effective if there is something present for them to affect. Light is



Yancey

used to bring things into view that were hidden in the darkness. Salt provides flavor, melts ice, preserves food, and is used in healing.

In the same way, Christians are to be involved in the world as change agents. Believers should live in ways that demonstrate their relationship to Jesus Christ.

Threat to life (Matt. 5: 21-22). While anger is wrong, there is a righteous indignation against sin that is natural (See Matt. 18:32-35; 21:12-13).

For many people anger can be a very destructive force in their lives, perhaps more detrimental than murder itself.

The word murder here comes from the Hebrew word *ratsach*. This type of killing excludes killing in self-defense, wars ordered by Yahweh, capital punishment following due process of law, or accidental manslaughter.

Jesus also tells his followers that being angry with one's brother using the epithet

"Raca" (a quasi-swear word in Aramaic) merits the same punishment by the court. As with the commands against anger, these commands against insulting names were not to be used unless in justified circumstances.

Jesus used the term *moros* or fool in Matt. 23:17,19 and 7:26 when the need arose. It is important to control the words that we say to people we love. People can enhance the quality of their lives by controlling their anger.

Purity of life (Matt. 5:27-28). Jesus shook up the world when he reduced sin to mere thoughts as opposed to action.

The Ten Commandments forbade adultery and also the coveting of another man's wife (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21). Jesus saw adultery as sin against any woman, as destructive to the offender, to the offended, and to the marriage.

The word in the Greek that means "to look" (*blepon*) refers to one who continues to look rather than just casting a passing glance. Sin always begins in our minds. Whatever actions

take place are a direct result from the sin having taken root in our minds.

To look at a man or woman lustfully is to see him/her for sexual purposes only. There is a difference between admiring beauty in a person and lusting after them. Believers are to value others as persons of worth, not as objects of sexual desire.

Value of life (Matt. 5:43-45a). If we love only those who love us, then we are no different from the pagan world. The command to love one's neighbor would be understood by a Jew to refer to another Jew. The Pharisee would possibly restrict neighbor to another Pharisee (they called themselves *Haberim* or neighbors).

God's love does not discriminate but is distributed to friends and enemies alike. Jesus urged his listeners to a higher ethic of love to all people, even enemies, with a love that is warm, generous, and self-sacrificial.

Yancey is consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be confirmed by mail. News is becoming more timely.



All news items are subject to editing and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photos can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication.

Articles that are not published will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photos must be accompanied by a return address and stamped envelope.

Submit news and photos via Baptist Record, P.O. Box 100, Greenville, SC 29615. E-mail: news@baptistrecord.com

Collegians meet at Dallas DestiNATIONS

DALLAS (BP) — Approximately 2,700 people, including 2,500 college students, converged on Dallas Jan. 4-7, for DestiNATIONS, a conference designed to educate and inspire students about missions.

The Christian life is "not about the things that you bring to this God," said Mike Stroope. It's about "dead corpses" to whom God brings life.

Stroope, former missionary for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and current president of All Peoples,

a church mobilization organization, spoke on the opening night of DestiNATIONS.

"The question before you," Stroope said, is "will you live unto your name, your purposes, ... or will you die?"

"We no longer kill bulls or pigeons; that's Old Testament," he said. "We present our bodies as living sacrifices."

A long-time missionary himself, Stroope said he has seen people go halfway around the world but never die to self. People choose one of two directions in life, he said. They either give their lives to God's glory or to their own. God, however, is the "rightful person to receive glory to his name."

Voddie Baucham, an evangelist from Houston, and director of Voddie Baucham Ministries in Oxford, England, concluded the conference with a message entitled, "The Indwelling Christ." He told the students that God has a purpose larger than any one person, but that the Spirit of God allows each Christian to participate in God's plan. Baucham also stressed the importance of taking the gospel to the world.

"You were put together by God uniquely, and there is no one like you in all of the earth," he said. "There is a place in this world for you alone where you will serve God."

DestiNATIONS was a Southern Baptist missions conference jointly sponsored by the state Baptist conventions, LifeWay Christian Resources, the International and North American mission boards, and Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.



DestiNATIONS SPEAKER — Jeff Lewis, an evangelist from California, spoke at the DestiNATIONS conference held in Dallas, Jan. 4-7. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



QUIET TIME — Derrick Thomas of Shreveport, La., spends time reading the Bible on the morning of January 6 before the start of DestiNATIONS. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1999

EVXOXYIOX UXZCR
PDFEZYXW UM YTZE,
KX VTJX GXTSX KZEV RIW
EVOIDRV IDO AIOW
PXDFD SVOZFE.

OIBTCF YZJX: ICX

Clue: Y = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Thirty.

DeLap: memorize Scripture to help evangelize

DALLAS (BP) — A student evangelism expert told collegians to have the Word of God "ready and hidden in your hearts" in order to be ready to answer others who ask questions about God or who challenge their beliefs.

Rollin DeLap, national missionary for student evangelism with the North American Mission Board, spoke to approximately 300 college students during a seminar in connection with the DestiNATIONS conference.

Quoting Scripture passages to make his points, DeLap told students that memorizing Scripture is something God told us to do, not something he suggested we do.

"God said to hide the Scripture in your heart," DeLap said. "Memorizing is how we do that."

He asked the college students how many of them could quote 15 Scripture verses from memory, including book, chapter, and verse references. He said, "If you have been a Christian five years, that would just be memorizing three Scriptures a year ... three a year!"

He challenged the collegians to begin memorizing one verse a week. "That's not hard to do. It doesn't take long to memo-

rize a verse." He said the key to remembering a verse is reviewing the verse repeatedly.

With a box of 2x3-inch cards DeLap showed the students the verses he has memorized over the past 15 years. "This is one verse a week, 52 weeks a year, for the past 15 years."

He told the students he was sure most of them had higher IQs than he did, so intelligence is not the most important thing. Rather, he said, most important are the desire to do it and the commitment to follow through.

During their college years, he told the group, "You're either building your life on the philosophies of men and the books they've written, or you're building your life on the Word of God and Jesus Christ."

College students take to Dallas streets

DALLAS (BP) — When more than 2,500 college students attended DestiNATIONS, a mission conference in Dallas, lessons taught during the conference were not only heard, but also practiced. Taking to the streets of the Dallas and Fort Worth areas, students participated in block parties, trash clean up, surveys, and cookouts. "It's something that has to be done, and somebody has to do it," said David Ross of Corpus Christi, Texas. Ross, who came with a group from North Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, joined in an effort to clean up apartment complexes in Irving. "Jesus is all about serving people and serving communities."

Students handed out flyers in apartment complexes on Friday advertising the block parties that were to take place Saturday. Often the students had opportunities to share the gospel with those living in the apartments. "They may think they have nothing, but if they don't have Jesus they really have nothing," said North Oklahoma College student Clint Hancock of Perkins, Okla. "I'm just trying to better the community and to bring some [people] to God."

Saturday brought clear weather and exciting block parties. Children and parents flocked to the bounce tents, face painting, snacks, and crafts which students helped run in local apartment areas. "I'm here to tell kids about Jesus and to tell them he loves them, to let them know they're not alone," said Holly Bays who came with a group from Northwestern Louisiana University.

Oak View Church in Irving, a Dallas suburb, sponsored several of the block parties. Heather Corley, who works with the mission efforts of Oak View Church, said the main obstacle in sharing the gospel at the apartments is reaching the parents. "Parents just send their children to the activities," she said. "But the response among the children is great."

June Dillon, a grandparent of one of the children who participated in a party, said, "I think this is great. There are too many children with not enough to do." Some apartment residents said they hope the church-sponsored activities will continue and that other groups will begin similar projects.

"The community ought to work together to do something for the kids," said Steven Strathdee, a friend of an apartment resident.

Many students who participated in the block parties are seeking future opportunities to do mission work. Scott Seymoure, a student at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, is planning to work with the North American Mission Board this coming summer.

"I came [to DestiNATIONS] to have a chance to get my mind ready for this summer," he said. "Missions is one of the things God told us to do. If it's important to God, it should be on our priority list." Aaron Travis, another student at Lamar University, said he came to DestiNATIONS to seek God's guidance in where to serve. "Missions is our call," he said. "Our primary purpose is to worship God. The next important thing is to go and make disciples."

DestiNATIONS, meeting in Dallas, Jan. 4-7, 2001, was a Southern Baptist missions conference jointly sponsored by the state Baptist conventions, LifeWay Christian Resources, the International and North American mission boards, and Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.



MEMORIZE THE WORD — Rollin DeLap, national missionary for student evangelism with the North American Mission Board, spoke to college students during a seminar in connection with the DestiNATIONS conference. Quoting Scripture passages to make his points, DeLap told students that memorizing Scripture is something God told us to do, not something he suggested we do. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)